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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/658,893	09/10/2003	Hisayuki Kanki	P1246US	3190
1218	7590	04/06/2005	EXAMINER	
CASELLA & HESPOS 274 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10016			WASHBURN, DOUGLAS N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2863	

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/658,893	KANKI ET AL.	
	Examiner Douglas N. Washburn	Art Unit 2863	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 March 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 3,6,10-13,19 and 20 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2,4,5,7-9 and 14-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 10 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some *
 - c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1 The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9 and 14-18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tazumi et al. (US 6,392,537) (Hereafter referred to as Tazumi).

Tazumi teaches:

Allowing a number of automatic door apparatuses (ADA) to send ADA respective operating information to an administration center along with apparatus identification information attached in regard to claim 1

(e.g.; column 1, lines 59-63);

Classifying, by the administration center (AC), their respective operating information in accordance with a apparatus identification information in regard to claim 1

(e.g.; column 2, lines 34-44);

Storing classified operating information at the administration center in regard to claim 1

(e.g.; column 6, lines 56-59; figure 1);

Outputting from the AC stored operating information meeting a required condition regarding the classification of the information in regard to claim 1

(e.g.; column 8, lines 59-65);

Operating information includes a result on self diagnosis of an ADA regarding abnormality in regard to claim 2

(e.g.; column 7, lines 3-9);

An AC is communicatively connected with an information terminal device provided in a maintenance station which is assigned for the user to carry out maintenance service of a ADA, and wherein part or all of the stored operating information is transmittable to the maintenance station in response to a user's request of reading out the operating information from the information terminal device in regard to claim 4

(e.g.; column 7, lines 3-9; figure 1, element 32);

A number of ADA each of which is provided with a sender for sending operating information of its own with identification information attached in regard to claim 5

(e.g.; column 7, lines 3-9; figure 1, element 34);

An AC including a receiver for receiving sent operating information and identification information from each ADA, and a classifier for classifying operating information in accordance with the apparatus identification information, and a storage for storing classified operating information to output stored operating information in response to a request in regard to claim 5

(e.g.; column 8, lines 61-65; figure);

An AC includes a search section for making a search relating to stored operating information under a designated condition in regard to claim 7

(e.g.; column 9, lines 7-16);

An ADA includes a device for self diagnosing abnormality of the ADA, and a sender is operative to send, to the AC, a result of the self-diagnosis with information relating to occurrence of the abnormality when the result of the self-diagnosis includes the information relating to occurrence of the abnormality in regard to claim 8

(e.g.; column 9, lines 17-26);

Maintenance stations, each of which includes an information terminal device communicatively connected with an AC is communicatively each of the maintenance stations being adapted to carry out maintenance service for at least one of the ADA, and the administration center being operative to receive from the ADA and send to a designated one of maintenance stations information relating to occurrence of an abnormality and self diagnosis result attached thereto, the designated maintenance station being designated in advance based on the apparatus identification information for the ADA that sends the AC information relating to occurrence of the abnormality and the self diagnosis result attached thereto in regard to claim 9

(e.g.; column 9, lines 7-56);

A door operating mechanism having a motor for opening and closing a door in regard to claim 14

(e.g.; column 5, lines 48-59; figure 1, element 6);

A sensor for detecting presence of an object in regard to claim 14

(e.g.; column 5, lines 60-62; figure 1, element 10);

A controller for driving a motor of a door operating mechanism based on a signal outputted from a sensor to open and close the door in regard to claim 14

(e.g.; column 6, lines 5-11; figure 2, element 14);

An operating information extractor which extracts repeatedly at intervals, from a controller, operating information of the ADA sensor state information indicating a detected state of the sensor and door state information indicating an open/close control state of the door, the door state information being cooperatively associated with the sensor state information in regard to claim 14

(e.g.; column 6, lines 24-30; figure 2, element 14);

A memory device which time-sequentially stores operating information repeatedly extracted by an extractor in regard to claim 14

(e.g.; column 6, lines 56-65; figure 2);

Operating information includes signal information which is communicable between a controller and an external apparatus electrically connected with the controller in regard to claim 15

(e.g.; column 7, lines 3-9; figure 1);

An ADA function of self-diagnosing malfunction or abnormality of the ADA, with a sensor or its equivalent while storing a result of the self-diagnosis in a memory, and an extractor is operative to extract the self-diagnosis result from the memory as the operating information for storing the self-diagnosis result in the memory device in time-series in regard to claim 16

(e.g.; column 7, lines 3-9; figure 2);

A monitor monitoring a malfunction, and an extractor extracts an operation history of the ADA from the controller for storage in the memory device in regard to claim 17

(e.g.; column 9, lines 17-26);

And an extractor extracts an altered designated value when the designated value set in the ADA is altered for storage in the memory device in regard to claim 18 (e.g.; column 9, lines 57-67).

Response to Amendment

2 Applicant amendment overcomes objection to claims 3, 6, 10-13, 19 and 20 and the objection is withdrawn.

Applicant amendment fails to overcome §102(b) rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9 and 14-18 and the rejection is maintained.

Allowable Subject Matter

3 The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 3 recites, in part, "predicting a possible malfunction of the automatic door apparatus based on the stored operating information and outputting a result of prediction regarding the possible malfunction". This feature in combination with the remaining claimed structure avoids the prior art of record.

Claim 6 recites, in part, "the administrative center is operative to predict a possible malfunction in a requested door apparatus based on stored operating information, and the administrative center includes a malfunction predicting section for outputting a result of prediction regarding a possible malfunction". This feature in combination with the remaining claimed structure avoids the prior art of record.

Claim 10 recites, in part, "the information terminal device of the maintenance station is operative to visibly alert occurrence of an abnormality on a display section of the information terminal device along with contents of the abnormality when the maintenance station receives the information relating to occurrence of the abnormality and the self diagnosis result". This feature in combination with the remaining claimed structure avoids the prior art of record.

Claims 11 and 12 depend from claim 10.

Claim 13 recites, in part, "part or all stored operating information, or a result on prediction of a possible malfunction is transmittable through the information terminal device of the maintenance station to the maintenance station in response to a request for reading out the operating information or outputting the result of prediction of the possible malfunction". This feature in combination with the remaining claimed structure avoids the prior art of record.

Claim 19 recites, in part, "the extractor updates contents stored in a memory device at a predetermined cycle". This feature in combination with the remaining claimed structure avoids the prior art of record.

Claim 20 recites, in part, "the extractor suspends overwriting of operating information into a memory device when occurrence of malfunction is detected in an ADA, and retains operating information and self-diagnosis result before detection of occurrence of the malfunction in the memory device". This feature in combination with the remaining claimed structure avoids the prior art of record.

It is these limitations, which are not found, taught or suggested in the prior art of record, and are recited in the claimed combination that makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

4 Applicant's arguments filed 14 March 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Regarding claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9 and 14-18, applicant argues "The Tazumi et al. reference fails to disclose the administration center". The instant application specification describes an administration center as:

"an automatic door apparatus administration center C (hereinafter, simply called as the administration center C") communicatively connected with the base stations BSI through BS_n, via network B, a router R, and an interface IF;"

The Tazumi et al. reference cited and relied on by the examiner describes a maintenance station as follows:

"A maintenance station monitors and maintains a plurality of automatic door systems at remote locations. Each door system includes a control unit for controlling the operation of an automatic door, and a self-diagnosing arrangement which operates in conjunction with the control operation of the control unit, to inspect the automatic door system for malfunctioning or broken part of the door system. When a failure is found in the automatic door system, the self-diagnosing arrangement of that door system sends information identifying that door system and information identifying the malfunctioning or broken part to the maintenance station via modems and telephones."

The applicant argues further that the reference does not suggest a method of "allowing a number of automatic door apparatuses to send the respective operating information to the administration center along with apparatus identification information attached thereto; classifying by the administration center, their respective operating information in accordance with the apparatus identification information; storing classified information at the administration center; and outputting from the administration center the stored operating information meeting a required condition regarding the classification of the information."

Examiner notes that Tazumi et al. teaches "An automatic door remote monitoring system according to the present invention is adapted to monitor a plurality of automatic door systems from a remote location, e.g. a maintenance station which monitors and maintains such plural automatic door systems. Each door system has a control unit which includes a controller and self-diagnosing means. The controller controls the operation of the door system associated therewith, and the self-diagnosing means operates, in conjunction with the controlling of the door by the controller, to inspect the door system to find out a malfunctioning or broken part thereof. When any one of the door systems fails, the **self-diagnosing means of that door system sends to the maintenance station, through a communications system, failure information including door system part identifying information indicating a malfunctioning or broken part of that door system (hereinafter referred to simply as door system part identifying information)**. Also, the failure information includes door system identifying information identifying the door system to which each self-diagnosing means belongs."

Therefore the examiner maintains the teaching of Tazumi of a maintenance station reads on the broad limitation of an administration center.

Regarding claims 5 and 7-9, applicant argues the Tazumi et al. reference does not suggest a system with "an administration center including a receiver for receiving the sent operating information and the identification information from each automatic door apparatus, a classifier for classifying the operating information in accordance with the apparatus identification information, and a storage for storing the operating information to output the stored operating information in response to a request."

Examiner directs attention to figure 1 which depicts "an administration center including a receiver for receiving the sent operating information and the identification information from each automatic door apparatus" in figure 1, element 30; "a classifier for classifying the operating information in accordance with the apparatus identification information" in figure 1, element 32; and "a storage for storing the operating information to output the stored operating information in response to a request." in figure 1, element 32 column 7, lines 25-27.

The examiner maintains the teaching of Tazumi of figure 1 reads on the broad limitation of "an administration center including a receiver for receiving the sent operating information and the identification information from each automatic door apparatus, a classifier for classifying the operating information in accordance with the apparatus identification information, and a storage for storing the operating information to output the stored operating information in response to a request".

In regard to claims 14-18, applicant argues that the Tazumi et al. fails to teach "an operating information extractor which extracts repeatedly at intervals, from the controller, operating information of the automatic door apparatus including sensor state information indicating a detected state of the sensor and door state information indicating an open/close control state of the door" and "a memory device which time-sequentially stores the operating information repeatedly extracted by the extractor."

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However, examiner notes Tazumi et al. teaches "In accordance with programs stored in the ROM 16, the CPU 14 controls the door, self-diagnoses or inspects the automatic door system for failure and communicates with a maintenance station, and, in order to temporarily store data to be used therefor, the RAM 18 is used. The EEPROM 20 has stored therein various operating parameters and data to be used in inspecting the automatic door system."

The examiner maintains the teaching of Tazumi of a CPU reads on the broad limitation of "an operating information extractor which extracts repeatedly at intervals, from the controller, operating information of the automatic door apparatus including sensor state information indicating a detected state of the sensor and door state information indicating an open/close control state of the door" and "a memory device which time-sequentially stores the operating information repeatedly extracted by the extractor."

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas N. Washburn whose telephone number is (571) 272-2284. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 6:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

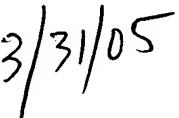
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Barlow can be reached on (571) 272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


MICHAEL NGHIEM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DNW


3/31/05